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THAILAND

Kanchanaburi

Nakhon Pathom | Samut Sakhon | Samut Songkhram



The Bridge of the River Kwai

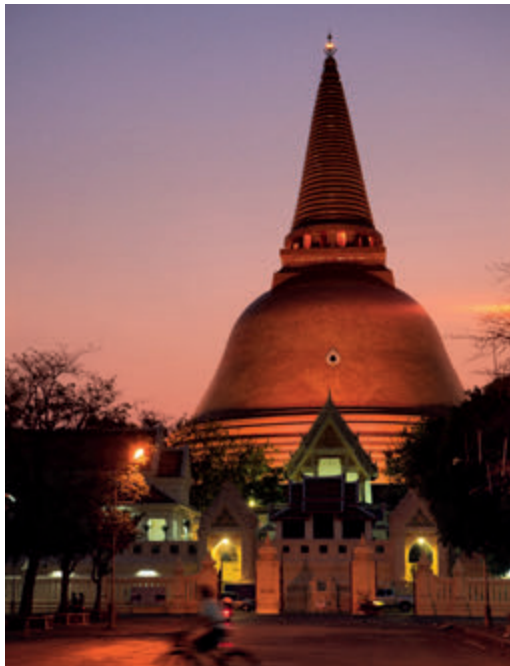
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KANCHANABURAI

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Three Pagodas Pass

Sangkhla Buri

Khuean Vajiralongkorn

Khuean Srinagarindra

Srinagarindra National Park

Namtok Huai Mae Khamin

Chaloem Rattanak

Sai Yok National Park

Namtok Sai Yok Yai

Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum

Erawan National Park

Namtok Sai Yok Noi

Bo Phloi

Huai Krad

Kanchanaburi Safari Park

Kanchanaburi

Muang Sing
Historical Park

Dan Makham Tia

Nakho

Union of Myanmar

Ratchab





Namtok Erawan

KANCHANABURI

Located 130 kms. west of Bangkok, just a two-hour drive away, the small town of Kanchanaburi is the capital of Thailand's third-largest province, which covers almost 20,000 square kilometres and stretches as far west as the border with Myanmar. The province boasts some of the country's most beautiful waterfalls and caves in its national parks, as well as the historic bridge over the River Kwai and exciting activities like rafting trips. Thus, it is an ideal spot to explore the Thai countryside without travelling too far from Bangkok. Kanchanaburi has lots of character, and is a great place to stay in raft houses on the river. There are many places worth visiting around town, but top of most people's list are the bridge and the war museums that chronicle the building of the infamous "Death Railway" across the River Kwai and on Myanmar during World War II. The hills and valleys are scattered with intriguing temples and historical sites, and the lush wooded landscapes are ideal for cycling, trekking, raft trips or elephant rides.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

The Bridge over the River Kwai

Situated just to the north of the town, this bridge was made famous by the 1957 film "Bridge over the River Kwai" by David Lean, though in fact the movie portrayed a wooden bridge that was constructed earlier. Both bridges were badly damaged by Allied plane attacks in 1944 and 1945, but several arches of the metal bridge stood throughout and it was repaired after the war. The bridge was the key point in the so-called "Death Railway" that connected Thailand and Myanmar, intended to provide a supply line for Japanese troops in Myanmar, though the work was completed only

at the loss of countless lives of prisoners-of-war and local labourers supervised by Japanese troops. The railway line was only used a few times before the Japanese surrender, after which the British tore up part of the track, making it inoperative. These days it is possible to cross the bridge on foot or by train on the way to the waterfall, about 100 kms. to the northwest. Steam train enthusiasts will be delighted to see a few World War II era machines displayed beside the bridge. Those with a particular interest in the history of the area should time their visit to coincide with the River Kwai Bridge Festival, late November each year.

The Death Railway

The Death Railway originally started at Nong Pla Duk Station in Amphoe Ban Pong of Ratchaburi Province, passing Kanchanaburi across the Kwai Yai River and the Three Pagodas Pass on the west to Tanbyuzayat in Myanmar. The historic railway built at the cost of lives and labour runs through fabulous sceneries on both sides, especially at Krasae Cave where the breathtaking journey runs along the high cliff overlooking the Kwai Noi River. The railway presently ends at Ban Tha Sao or Namtok (Waterfall) Station, a distance of about 77 kilometres. The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) operates daily services on the route and a special Bangkok-Namtok trip on weekends and public holidays. For more information, contact SRT at Tel. +66 2220 4334 and +66 2621 8701 or hotline 1690.

JEATH War Museum

"JEATH" refers to the six countries involved in the building of the railway-Japan, England,



Death Railway

America, Australia, Thailand and Holland and this museum located to the south of the town centre next to Wat Chaichumphon gives a vivid picture of the terrible conditions in which the Allied prisoners-of-war lived. The museum building is a copy of the long thatched bamboo huts that used to house the prisoners during the war. On display are paintings, photographs and newspaper articles from the period, detailing the cruel torture methods. The museum is open from 8.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

World War II Museum

This museum, located just south of the bridge, contains war memorabilia in the form of bomb shells, photos and sketches from the period, statues of important war leaders, and over 100 skeletons of Asian labourers found in a mass grave. In a separate building there are displays of Buddha images, Thai weaponry from the Ayutthaya period and portraits of the kings of Thailand. The museum is open from 8.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.



Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

Perhaps even more moving than the bridge or museums are the lines of identical gravestones in the cemetery located just near the train station. The remains of almost 7,000 Allied prisoners are buried here; many of the memorial slabs are unidentified, but several give details of the soldiers, showing that the great majority were very young indeed. A memorial service is held each year on Anzac Day, 25 April.

Thailand-Burma Railway Centre

Located near the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery (Don Rak), it puts on an exhibition of history of the Thailand-Burma railway from the invasion of the Imperial Japanese Army, planning and construction of the railway, its geography, living condition in POW camps, medical aspects, summary of deaths, operation, bombing bombing and end of the railway, as well as aftermath of the way. Open daily during 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. For more information, please visit www.tbrconline.com

Wat Tham Mangkon Thong

The main attraction of this temple, located about 5 kms. east of the town centre, is the “Floating Nun”, a Buddhist nun who regularly meditates while floating in a pond. The temple is located on a hillside, and there are caves above the temple that offer fine views of the area.

Ban Kao National Museum

8 kilometres from Prasat Mueang Sing, and 35 kilometres from town, this museum overlooks the Kwai Noi River. The museum was constructed beside a Neolithic burial site discovered by an Allied prisoner-of-war during the construction of the Death Railway. About 4,000 years ago. Neolithic man lived, roamed and hunted beside the Kwai Rivers, sheltering beneath rock overhangs or in nearby caves. The Ban Kao Museum houses skeletal remains, pots, axe heads, jewellery made from animal bones, and other artefacts dating from that era.

Pak Phraek Road

Straddling the Kwai Yai River, next to the city wall, Pak Phraek Road was the site of an ancient community in Kanchanaburi. Its history dates back to the early days of Kanchanaburi itself. With its strategic location at the waterway transport junction, the area was an important trade hub of the city. It is presently a major connecting point of various destinations in Kanchanaburi, including the old city wall and gate, the Shrine of the City Pillar and the Wat Tai War Museum. This road is also close to the main river pier plied by tour boats and rafts. Tourists, however, prefer wandering through old architectures of wooden houses and commercial buildings lining more than 1 kilometre of the road.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Ban Nong Khao

Located at Tambon Nong Khao, about 12 kilometres from the city on Highway No.324 (Kanchanaburi-Suphan Buri), this village is famous as the source of high-quality heirloom textile, the multi-coloured “Phakhao Ma” (all-purpose cloth) in particular. Residents lead simple lifestyle of a farm community, giving a unique experience to the visitors. Typical Thai houses of the old days are generally seen, with ancient practices and customs maintained; such as, paddy pounding in mortar, palm sugar and traditional Thai dessert making, tonsure ceremony for kids reaching puberty, manual rice planting, and the performance of the farmers’ songs.

Erawan National Park

Thailand has over 100 national parks, and one of the most visited of them all is Erawan, 65 kms. or an hour and a half drive northwest of Kanchanaburi. Flocks of visitors come to see the seven-tiered waterfall that gives the 550-square- kilometres park its name. The top level of the falls is thought to resemble a three-headed elephant, called “Erawan” in Thai, that is ridden by Indra in Hindu mythology. With milky turquoise waters tumbling over various cascades, the falls are wonderfully photogenic and thought by many to be Thailand’s most beautiful. Several of the pools below the falls are ideal for bathing in, especially level two, and they are much less crowded on weekdays. About 10 kms. beyond the park headquarters is Tham Phrathat, a large cave adorned with beautiful stalactites. Tel. +66 2562 0760-2



Srinagarindra Dam

Khuean Srinagarindra National Park

Located just north of Erawan National Park, this park covers over 1,500 square kilometres. Since it is more difficult to get to than Erawan, it is less frequently visited, but nonetheless has some very special attractions, including Namtok Huai Mae Khamin, which also has seven levels and is a close contender to Namtok Erawan for sheer beauty. As at Erawan, the water is generally a lovely pale green, but here it runs over a caramel-coloured rockface, and there is a superb viewing spot directly in front. The easiest way to get to the falls is by a two-hours boat journey across the Srinagarindra Dam, a unique landscape of gesturing treetops rising from mirror-like waters. Contact Tel. +66 2325 5498 or visit www.dnp.go.th for more information.

Namtok Huai Mae Khamin

Located within the area of Srinagarindra Dam,

about 10 kilometres from the city area, this wondrous waterfall lies hidden in the pristine forest rich in flora. The waterfall originates from the watershed of Kala Mountain Range which is a dry rainforest to the east of the National Park, flowing into the reservoir of Srinagarindra Dam. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful waterfalls ever found in the country. The cascade is in 7 levels, each with its given name, as Dong Wan – the groove of herbs, Man Khamin – curtain of turmeric, Wang Na Pha – the pool over the cliff, Chat Kaeo – the umbrella of glass, Lai Chon Long – the lost current, Dong Phisuea – the butterfly haunt, and Rom Klao – under the aura. A trail has been marked by the National Park for visitors to trek to each level through various surroundings in nature. The best period to visit the waterfall is from October to April.



Namtok Huai Mae Khamin

Bo Phloi

Located 40 kms. north of Kanchanaburi, the small village of Bo Phloi has a Jewellery Handicraft Centre, where blue sapphires mined locally are fashioned into beautiful rings and pendants.

Kanchanaburi Safari Park

Just near Bo Phloi village, this safari park has a diverse collection of large African and Asian mammals; such as, lions, tigers, bears, giraffes and zebras. It is open from 9.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m. Contact Tel. +66 3467 8225, +66 8 6300 0667 or visit www.safaripark-kan.com for more information.

Chaloem Rattanakosin National Park

This tiny national park, situated just under 100 kms. north of Kanchanaburi, covers just 59 square kilometres, but has two large caves and several waterfalls connected by a trail that begins at the visitor centre. Accommodation is available. Contact Tel. +66 2562 0760-2 or visit

www.dnp.go.th for more information.

The Tiger Temple

Located at Tambon Sing in Amphoe Saiyok, the forest temple was established in 1994 under the auspices of the venerable Luangta Bua Yanasampanno, when villagers saved an orphaned tiger cub, a *Panthera tigris corbetti*, and entrusted it to the temple. The abbot adopted the cub as his own offspring, with compassion as the principle. The temple has become a shelter for injured, orphaned and abandoned wild animals. This temple illustrates that animals and humans coexist amicably, so that the Times Magazine of 22 May 2006 cited the temple as the best example of a peaceful coexistence in the world. The latest figures show that there are now 17 tigers, 7 saved from the jungle, and 10 born at the temple. Visit www.tigertemple.org for more information.

Prasat Mueang Sing Historical Park

Built around the end of the 12th century, this place was once the westernmost outpost of the Khmer Empire, strategically located on the banks of Kwai Noi River 43 kms. west of Kanchanaburi. The shrine complex at the heart of the site has been restored to give an idea of the structure's original size, and a few remnants of the original stucco ornamentation can still be seen. It is open from 9.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. For more information, visit www.muangsinghp.com

Rail Journey to the Waterfall

One of the best ways to see the countryside around town is to take the two-hours journey by train from Kanchanaburi to the waterfall which operates three times a day. The train stops regularly at attractive village stations, and the views from the left side are particularly impressive as the route passes through steep gorges and round sheer cliff faces. The most popular attraction is Namtok Sai Yok Noi, the waterfall located a few kilometres north of town, and boat operators also offer trips up and down the river before the train returns.

Boat Trips

Another relaxing way to enjoy Kanchanaburi's surroundings is to take a raft trip, which typically includes several of the nearby attractions, a leisurely lunch, and an overnight stay on the raft. For those with less time to spare, long-tail boats can be hired to visit a variety of riverside places. For more information, contact any hotel, guesthouse, or the TAT office in Kanchanaburi. Tel. +66 3451 1200.

Thung Yai Naresuan and Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary

Thung Yai Naresuan and Huai Kha Khaeng

Wildlife Sanctuaries are jointly inscribed as Thailand's UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site in 1991. Abundant with wild animals, floras and faunas, they are the largest protected land of the kingdom. Here visitors get to enjoy the adventurous journey of trekking while exploring the virgin forest canopies that have not been much visited by humans.

Sai Yok National Park

The caves, waterfalls and teak forests of this 500 square kilometres park, situated just over 100 kms. northwest of Kanchanaburi, make this park a popular destination. Accommodations on the rafts that float in the river are also available. One of the park's most impressive sights is Namtok Sai Yok Yai, which pours dramatically into the Kwai Noi River. The falls can be viewed from a nearby suspension bridge, or you can get right underneath them for a vigorous shower. A little further upstream is Tham Daowadueng which is full of stalactites. Both the falls and cave are best approached by boat, which can be rented at the park. Though you might not get to catch sight of one, the park is home to the world's smallest mammal- the hog-nosed bat, which weighs less than two grammes. Contact Tel. +66 2562 0760, +66 3468 6024 or visit www.dnp.go.th for more information.

Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum

About 80 kms. northwest of Kanchanaburi, the most difficult terrain met in the construction of the Death Railway was dubbed "Hellfire Pass" by those who worked there, hacking away at solid rock with the most basic of tools. The Memorial Museum here, open from 9.00 a.m - 4.00 p.m., is perhaps the best of all those in the region, combining maps, war relics, models, photos and accounts by survivors. A four-kilometres trail from the museum leads along part of the railway's former route, where a section of the

track has now been restored. The museum is open daily during 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. (For use of guide headphones, please arrive before 3.00 p.m.) Closed on Christmas day. Tel. +66 3453 1347, +66 8 1754 2098 or <http://hellfirepass.in.th>

Thong Pha Phum

Namtok Pha Tat : a large waterfall within the area of Khuen Srinagarindra National Park located 130 kilometres from Kanchanaburi. The picturesque 3-tiered waterfall originates from a small creek on the Kala Range. Each of its 3 tiers is wide and breathtakingly high, with a lot of water in the late rainy season. It has serene and verdant surroundings.

To get there, take Highway 323 and turn between Kilometres. 105-106 toward the same direction as Hin Dat Hot Spring and continue for some 10 kilometres. further.

Hin Dat Hot Spring : formerly known as Kuimang Hot Spring, located 123 kilometres from Kanchanaburi between Km. 107 on Highway 323. It is a well of natural hot water of 45 - 55 degrees Celsius discovered beside a stream of cool water by Japanese troops during WWII and two cement wells were then constructed at the site. It is believed that the water from this hot spring has a healing property for various ailments such as beriberi and rheumatism. A hot spring bath in the well is available. There is a ramp to the hot spring to facilitate the handicapped.

Vajiralongkorn Dam formerly known as Khao Laem Dam, located at Tambon Tha Khanun 153 kilometres from Kanchanaburi on Highway 323, 6 kilometres. to the north of Amphoe Thong Pha Phum. It is a rockfill dam with a reinforced concrete surface measuring 92 metres high. Its crest is 10 metres wide and

1,019 metres long stretching across the Khwae Noi River. It is a multi-purpose hydro-electric plant with natural beauty and a scenic lake where rafting boats for rent are available. There is also floating accommodation and cruising boats available 3 kilometres beyond the entrance to the dam. A boat trip on the lake with a stop at a coconut grove (Maphrao Kathi-a fleshy variety of coconut) on an island in the lake takes 1 hour from the dam. Advance bookings with the Thong Pha Phum District Office is required. Accommodation and boat (for group visitors) is provided. For more information, please contact the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), Tel. +66 3459 9077 ext. 2502 and 2506, +66 3459 8031 or Bangkok, Tel. +66 2436 6046-8.

Pilok Mine located in Tambon Pilok about 70 kilometres to the west of Amphoe Thong Pha Phum along Highway 3272. There used to be tin and wolfram mines on the Tanao Si Range which forms a natural boundary between Thailand and Myanmar. On the way, visitors can stop at "Pilok Hill", about 32 kilometres from Thong Pha Phum where fruiting and decorative plants of the temperate zone are grown. There are numerous picturesque waterfalls near by which are accessible by foot such as Numtok Chokkadin and Namtok Chet Mit. Visitors need to be careful because most of the routes are steep and winding, is abundant with mountains and forest, especially in the rainy and winter seasons; it is covered by a sea of mist. In the past, it was prosperous with more than 40 tin and wolfram mines. There are many attractions; such as, Wat I-thong , Ban I-tong Market, mine tunnel. Thailand-Myanma Friendship Border Pass, Noen Chang Suek and Noen SaoThong viewpoints. For more information,

please contact the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT. Kanchanaburi office) Tel. +66 34511200, +66 3451 2500 and One hundred thirty fifth Military Border Patrol Company at Tel. +66 3459 9118

Thong Pha Phum National Park

Located within the area of Pa Huai Khayeng and Pa Khao Chang Phueak reserved forests covering a total area of approximately 1,120 square Kilometers, some 60 kilometres to the west of Amphoe Thog Pha Phum on Highway 3272. There are many spots of interest including 2 viewpoints at Doi Tong Palae which is about 300 metres uphill from where Namtok Chokkadin is visible, and Noen Kut Doi which is accessible by car and offers a panoramic view of the mountains, Vajiralongkorn Dam and Khao Chang Phueak-the national park's highest peak. There are 3 nature trails to waterfalls; namely, Namtok Chokkadin, Namtok Pha Pae and Namtok Chet Mit. These waterfalls are located in the evergreen forest of Tambon Pilok which is a former location of tin and wolfram mines on the Thai-Burmese border. A four-wheel drive car and hired guide will be needed.

To get there, from Kanchanaburi, follow Highway 323 to Amphoe Thng Pha Phum and turn into Highway 3272 (Thong Pha Phum-Pilok Mine) for some 57 kilometres. to Thong Pha Phum National Park's headquarters. The road, though asphalted, climbs up the mountain with several sharp curves; drivers will have to drive carefully. For more information, please contact Tel. +66 3451 0979, +66 8 1382 0359 or Thong Pha Phum National Park, P.O. Box 18, Amphoe Thong Pha Phum, or www.dnp.go.th

Sangkhla Buri

This small town which lies 224 kms. northwest of Kanchanaburi and near to the Myanmar border is home to an ethnic mix of Thais, Mons and Karens. It sits at the north end of the Vajiralongkorn or Khao Laem Dam, a huge expanse of water that stretches over 70 kms. south. Due to its remoteness it receives few visitors, but those who make it here can enjoy relaxing boat trips around the dam, organised by the few resorts and guest houses in town.

Khao Laem National Park

About 182 kilometres. from Kanchanaburi on Highway 323 (Thong Pha Phum-Sangkhla Buri), the national park is situated at km. 39-40, about 30 kilometres to Amphoe Sangkhla Buri. With an area of 815 square kilometres covering Amphoe Thong Pha Phum and Amphoe Sangkhla Buri including forest, Khwae Noi River and Vajiralongkorn Dam (or Khao Laem Dam), it is a peaceful pleasant park with Huai Kateng Cheng flowing through it. Tourists can camp and start the journey there to learn about nature along the waterfall.

Namtok Kateng Cheng

This medium-sized waterfall has 23 levels, and each level has its own different unique. The distance from the first level to the highest one is about 2 kilometres therefore, it is suitable for visual studies of various kinds of forests; banana forest, bamboo forest, evergreen forest and mixed deciduous forest. Moreover, especially at the sixteenth level a large beautiful tree exists and another huge one requires at least 13 adults holding hands to encircle.

To experience this waterfall, tourists have to go on foot from the national park office taking about 2-3 hours. After about 2 kilometres,



Sangkhla Buri

they will get to the first level of the waterfall. Climbing up to the higher levels, they will find a sight-seeing point at the top of the waterfall where they can see Khao Laem Dam at a bird's eye view.

After that, visitors can choose to return by foot and take a jungle trek through the fertile virgin forest instead of the one they depart from. During the journey, they will pass fascinating fern forest, Rakam (zalacca) forest, lichi and Mafai forest. Furthermore, it is pleasant to hear the echoing sound of water falling over the rocks all the time.

Pom Pi Ranger Station

It is situated 2 kilometres from the Khao Laem National Park. It is on the roadside of Highway No. 323 (Thong Pha Phum-Sangkhla Buri) at Kilometre 40-41. This place is attached to the reservoir with a pleasure atmosphere and a viewpoint of the Vajiralongkorn Dam where you can admire the beautiful sunset. Accom-

modation and camping area are available, and also many activities; such as, watching birds, boating, swimming, etc.

However, the rainy season is not a good time to visit this waterfall. Tourists should ask for official guides of the park office. Accommodation service and camping is available. Admission is 400 baht for adults and 200 baht for children. For more information, please contact Tel. +66 3453 2099, +66 3454 6819, +66 8 6131 3443 and the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Bangkok, at Tel. +66 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th.

Wat Wang Wiwekaram

This extensive temple located on the southern outskirts of Sangkhla Buri edges on Vajiralongkorn or Khao Laem Dam. The complex is constructed in an unusual mix of Thai, Indian, and Burmese Buddhist architectural styles, and the abbot "Luangpho Uttama" is highly revered among local people, including tribal folk and Burmese.

Mon Bridge

Also known as “Uttamanuson Bridge”. Linking Sangkhla Buri and Mon villages, the 850-metre-long wooden bridge across the Songkaria River is a famous viewpoint overlooking the merging point of the three rivers – Songkaria, Bikhli and Ranti.

Three Pagodas Pass

This border crossing point between Thailand and Myanmar is named after three small but historically significant pagodas built in the 18th century as a gesture of peace between these frequently warring neighbours. The pass is about 1,400 metres above sea level, and is often shrouded in mist.

Agrotourism

Rai Khun Mon

Situated in Tambon Nong Kum, Amphoe Bo Phloi, about 35 kilometre from Kanchanaburi on the Kanchanaburi-Bo Phloi Route (Highway 3086) or 1 kilometres before the Safari Park (opposite to Wat Nong Krathum). It is a mixed cultivation farm with organic vegetables and plants of various kinds of processed agricultural products such as corn milk, corn milk ice cream, corn milk toffee, banana chips, Cheewajit healthy food, black sesame compress ball, sesame oil, moringa oil, sesame oil soap and moringa oil soap. For group visitors wishing to attend the 5 learning stations; namely, sesame oil pressing and black sesame compress ball, building a clay house, lwate kiln and wood vinegar, corn milk ice cream, and riding an 1-taen folk vehicle to pick the corn, please contact in advance or reserve a bungalow (clay house) in the area of 0.24 square kilometres, it has advanced machines and can offer jobs for the

local people. Tourists can get to the agricultural farm to experience the production process closely and buy products.

with Khun Monarat, Tel. +66 8 1894 9959, +66 8 1944 7971, +66 8 1915 6758, Fax. +66 3453 1487. Rai Khun Mon was granted the Thailand Tourism Award 2013 in the category of Agrotourism Attraction and the Certificate of Creative Tourism from the activity of making a black sesame compress ball as voted through the website by Thai and international visitors.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sangkhla Buri Mon Songkran Festival

April

Sangkhla Buri

Held around every 16 or 17 April. Songkran Day is considered to be New Year Day for the Mon people. The activities are making merit and offering food to monks in the morning on the longest wooden bridge of Thailand, tasting Khao Chae (rice in iced water) in the Mon style, watching Saba (Mon folk game), building sand stupas, and bathing Buddha images. Moreover, join proving the faith and beliefs of the Mon people that conjoin lying down orderly and let monks walk on their backs for good luck and elimination of illnesses, watch and join the ceremony of to bathe the monks by pouring water onto bamboo gutters that are orderly tied in the front yard of the Bodh Gaya Stupa. After the bathing ceremony, the villagers splash water joyfully, and the next day, the villagers will make merit by offering food and desserts and arrange a long parade of the four necessities in order to join raising the tiered-umbrella over the sand stupa and pour ceremonial water in dedication to the deceased, so the Mon

Songkran Festival is truly finished.

Tak Bat Dok Mai Festival

July - August

Sangkhla Buri

Held during the Buddhist Lent on every full-moon and new moon days, starting from Asalha Puja Day (the day before Buddhist Lent). Villagers will dress in white and bring flowers, incense sticks, and candles and wait orderly to offer them to monks at Wat Wang Wiwekaram, from 1.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.

River Kwai Bridge Week

November – December (Annually)

River Kwai Bridge, Amphoe Mueang

Watch the light-and-sound show in remembrance of the bridge and the construction of the “Death Railway” during World War II. (headphones in English, Japanese, Chinese and German are available.) A wealth of entertainment and exhibitions are on display. Website : www.tourismthailand.org

SPECIAL INTEREST

Golf

There are several glorious golf courses in Kanchanaburi; in some cases, they are a part of a resort or sports club that offers many other facilities such as swimming pool, fitness centre and luxurious accommodation. While they are not usually busy on weekdays, bookings are advised during weekends and public holidays.

Adventure

Boasting various types of adventurous activities, Kanchanaburi is the destination for those interested in activities; such as, trekking on

elephant back, rafting through wild water, off road driving, forest trekking or even cave exploring. For more detail contact the TAT Kanchanaburi Office at Tel. +66 3451 1200, +66 3451 2500.

Gourmet Travelling

Kanchanaburi is famous for its freshwater fish. The most popular dining areas are the Song Kwai Road waterfront area and the riverside restaurants in the vicinity of the River Kwai Bridge.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Follow Highway 4 heading west from Bangkok, then shortly after Nakhon Pathom, branch right on to Highway 323, which leads to Kanchanaburi.

By Bus

Both regular and airconditioned buses leave from the Southern Bus Terminal on Boromratchachonnani Road to Kanchanaburi daily. Tel. 1490, +66 2894 6122 www.transport.co.th

By Van

Several van services from Bangkok to the Bus Terminal in Kanchanaburi are available on a daily basis; one is from the Victory Monument, one behind Royal Hotel, one near Tesco Lotus in Pin Klao area, and one at the Southern Bus Terminal (Sai Tai Mai).

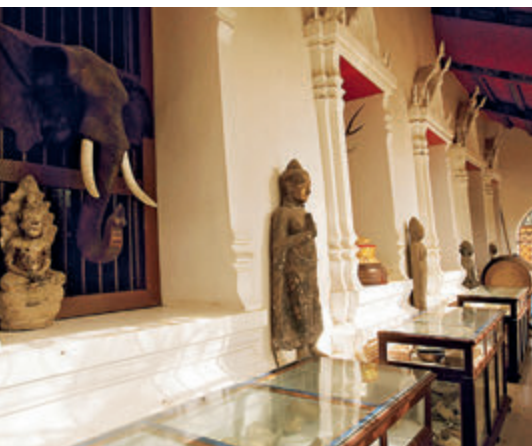
By Rail

Trains leave from Thon Buri Station daily on the three-hour journey to Kanchanaburi. Contact Tel. +66 2411 3102, +66 3451 1285 or Hotline 1690, Website: www.railway.co.th.



Phra Pathom Chedi

NAKHON PATHOM



National Museum of Phra Pathom Chedi

Home to Thailand's most famous stupa, the Phra Pathom Chedi, Nakhon Pathom lies 56 kms. west of Bangkok and is capital of a small province of the same name. It is thought by many to be the country's oldest town. Apart from the magnetic attraction of the huge stupa, the province has some fascinating museums, a royal country retreat, a delightful rose garden and elephant shows.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Phra Pathom Chedi

Soaring up 120 metres from the ground and stretching over 230 metres in diameter, this is both the world's largest stupa and one of Thailand's most sacred Buddhist monument. As such it attracts visitors from far and wide to wonder at its magnificent proportions and the aura of reverence that prevails. It was originally built around the 6th century and gradually added to over the centuries, until King Mongkut found the structure overgrown during his wanderings as a monk during the 1850s.



Sanam Chan Palace

He laid plans for the magnificent structure we see today, which was completed early in the 20th century. The towering stupa, which shelters a tall, standing Buddha, is covered with glazed, orange tiles and is surrounded by ceremonial halls, Buddha images, holy trees and meditation chambers.

National Museum of Phra Pathom Chedi

Just to the south of the stupa, this museum has some wonderful artefacts from the Dvaravati period (6-11th centuries), including stone Wheels of Law and stuccoed panels. It is open from 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday-Sunday.

Sanam Chan Palace

Built in 1907 as a country retreat for King Rama VI, this palace is an unusual mix of English and Thai architectural styles. The enormous compound contains various halls and rooms, some made of teak, surrounded by an extensive garden, where visitors are welcome to wander. Opening times are Thursday-Sunday, 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.



Jesada Technik Museum

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Jesada Technik Museum

Located at No.100, Mu 2, Tambon Ngio Rai, Amphoe Nakhon Chaisi, the museum is the depository and display area of a variety of motor vehicles and machines from all corners of the world. The museum was established by Mr. Jesada Dejsakulrit, a Thai businessman who enjoys traveling around the world and taking the opportunities to visit various museums. He was inspired to start his own collection of land, water, and air vehicles, which include compact cars, cartoon cars, a Russian submarine, a 747 Boeing and a Tri- Star airplanes etc.

The Thai Human Imagery Museum

The life-like figures on display here made out of fibreglass include famous monks and kings of the Chakri Dynasty, while other figures depict aspects of Thai lifestyle. It is also on the way to Bangkok, about 9 kms. from Nakhon Pathom. The museum is open on weekdays from 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., weekends 8.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.



Buddhamonthon

Buddhamonthon

Located southeast of Nakhon Pathom on the road towards Bangkok, this huge site of 2,500 rai (about 1,000 acres) was dedicated as a Buddhist site in 1957 to commemorate 2,500 years of Buddhism. Its main feature is a 16 metres walking Buddha image in the Sukhothai style, but its ample grounds also contain flower gardens, a Buddhist museum and meditation halls. This is also a location where important Buddhist ceremonies and festivities are held.



The Thai Human Imagery Museum

The surrounding area of the giant Buddha image is the well-maintained, beautiful park filled with shady trees and enormous pond where visitors can feed swamps of fish, making Buddhamonthon an ideal place for a relaxing afternoon or a picnic.

Thai Motion Picture Museum

Located with the Institute of Fine Arts, Fine Arts Department, on Phutthamonthon Sai 5 Road, Nakhon Pathom, inside is an imitation studio where history of the Thai film industry, film production process, props and images of important persons including movie stars and producers such as Mit Chaibancha - a late popular actor, and desk of Mr. Payut Ngaokrachang - producer of Thailand's first animation film 'Sut Sakhon'. It is opened on Saturdays and Sundays, admission times are 10.00 a.m., 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. Screening time is 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. From Monday - Friday, screening time is 5.30 p.m. (Please contact the Museum in advance for group visiting on weekday). Admission is Free.



Cultural Show at Rose Garden

Tel. +66 2482 2013-4, +66 2482 1087-88 or www.fapot.org

Rose Garden

Situated between Bangkok and Nakhon Pathom, the immaculately kept lawns and flower beds at the Rose Garden Country Resort draw in crowds of visitors every day, not only to appreciate the flowers but also to witness one of the best cultural shows in the country. The show, which takes place each afternoon, includes Thai dancing, ancient sword fighting, a Thai ordination ceremony and Thai boxing. There is also a model village where visitors can watch handicrafts being made. The gardens are open from 8.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo

Located just to the north of the Rose Garden, Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo features Elephant Theme Show where elephants perform various activities; such as, playing soccer, dancing, hauling logs, and demonstrating the Elephant Dual. Visitors can also enjoy roaming around the garden on



Samphan Elephant Ground and Zoo

an elephant's back, as well as watching the crocodile wrestling show and the magic show. It is open from 8.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Contact Tel. +66 2429 0361-2, +66 3431 1317 or visit www.elephantshow.com for more information.

Boat Rides on Khlong Mahasawat

One enjoyable way to pass time in this region is by taking a boat trip along Khlong Mahasawat. The 6-seat long-tailed boat embarks from the pier beside Wat Suwannaram and takes the visitors to cruise along the canal and observe the farmers at work in the Orchid Farm and the orchards of pomelo and guava, mango and jackfruit. The trip lasts about two hours.

Don Wai Market

Situated in Tambon Bang Kratuek, behind Wat Don Wai is a market that still retains an appearance of a market dating back to the reign of King Rama VI. The old building is made of wood and located on the banks of the Tha Chin River. Agricultural produce are sold daily from 7.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Boats are available for

rent for scenic river trips.

Wat Lam Phaya Floating Market

Wat Lam Phaya Floating Market is located in front of Wat Lam Phaya, on the Nakhon Chai Si (Tha Chin) riverside. *Lam Phraya* formerly was a name of the nearby village in the times when this area was under the responsibility of Amphoe Bang Pla, Monthon Nakhon Chai Si. The floating market was initiated by the Tambon Lam Phaya Cultural Council and Lam Phaya temple. It is a centre of trade for fruits and vegetables as well as agricultural produces including rattan ware, woven cotton, and steamed curried fish patty, are sold by local vendors who do their trade in their boats. In front of the temple is another haven for the various species of fish including big catfish-like fresh water fishes, black ear, and giant gourami. The cruise services along Tha Chin River are also available.

Thai Song Village

This village is situated at Km. 5 of Highway No. 3296 at Ban Ko Raet, Tambon Bang Pla, south of Amphoe Bang Len on the Bang Len- Don Tum route for about 9 kilometres. It is the village of the ethnic Song, also known as Tai Song Dam or Tai Dam, whose ancestors migrated from Indochina to the Thai Kingdom in the reign of King Taksin in 1768. They settled down at Ban Nong Prong, Amphoe Khao Yoi in Phetchaburi Province, and later spread out to various provinces; such as, Nakhon Pathom, Ratchaburi, Kanchanaburi, Suphan Buri, Sukhothai, Loei, Phichit and Phitsanulok. They are live in traditional highly-raised houses made of bamboo, with thatched roofs and their unique culture, lifestyle and tradition are well-preserved. The Tai Song are dressed in black or dark indigo

cloth, with blue band for women known as watermelon pattern, men in black or dark loose trousers and long-sleeved shirts. Women wear long hair, to be twisted into a bun, pinned at the top of their heads. Here, visitors can observe the art of making traditional heirloom textile and basketry, which are inherited through generations.

Bang Luang Market

Located in Amphoe Bang Len, this ancient community on the Tha Chin River is over 100 years old, dating back to 1903. All the fascinations of an old market remain intact. The simple way of life, community trade, as well as tradition, is a result of the combination of Thai and Chinese cultures through the past century. Visitors can explore the Chinese herbal medicine shop, denture shop, goldsmith shop, tinsmith shop and the noodle making shop at this market. Moreover, agricultural products are put on sale every weekend, featuring fresh fruits, fish, prawn, and famed cooked food and dessert. The market is open on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays, 9.00 a.m.– 5.00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Nakhon Pathom Food and Fruits Fair

January/February

This fair is held annually during Chinese New Year, within the grounds of Phra Pathom Chedi to celebrate the abundance of the province's agricultural products. On display are wide range of mouthwatering delicacies and array of quality fruits that are typically grown in Nakhon Pathom; such as, pomelo, coconuts, guavas, and bananas. There are contests

for the best specimens and a host of other entertainment.

Elephant Queen Pageant

May

Held at Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo, this unusual competition has become one of the country's most popular annual events. The pageant's aim is to find one plump lady among the many contestants who best interprets and expresses the elephant's gentle character. Contact Tel. +66 2429 0361-2, +66 3431 1317 or visit www.elephantshow.com for more information.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Nakhon Pathom is on Highway 4 directly west of Bangkok.

By Bus

There are frequent departures to Nakhon Pathom from the Southern Bus Terminal on Boromratchachonnani Road. Tel. +66 2894 6122, 1490 or www.transport.co.th

By Van

Several vans frequently depart to Silpakorn University in Nakhon Pathom from Bangkok; one from the Victory Monument, one at the Southern Bus Terminal, and one at the van terminal opposite to the Mo Chit Bus Terminal.

By Rail

Several trains passing through Nakhon Pathom leave Thon Buri Station daily. Contact Tel. +66 2411 3102, +66 3425 8771 or Hotline 1690, www.railway.co.th.



Phanthai Norasing Shrine

SAMUT SAKHON

Established in 1548 under the name “Sakhon Buri”, Samut Sakhon is a trading port located about 30 kms. southwest of Bangkok. It is the capital of a small province (872 square kilometres) and once played an important role in protecting the national capital, Bangkok, as is evidenced by the fort that still stands there.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Wat Khok Kham

Wat Khok Kham is an ancient temple located by Khlong Khok Kham. It is accessible by going along Highway No. 35. Turn left to Wat Phanthai Norasing for 3 kilometres. The interesting part of this temple is the old ubosot decorated around with Sema boundary markers. At the front of the temple lies a renovated chedi in the Ayutthaya style of art. The wooden engraving design at the gables is beautiful. Beside, there is a Phanthai Norasing Shrine which was a temporary shrine and a store of antique objects concerning the story of Phanthai Norasing such as parts of the Ekkachai and Butsabok royal barges, etc.

Phanthai Norasing Shrine

Phanthai Norasing Shrine is located in Tambon Khok Kham. It is accessible by taking Ekkachai Road into Highway No. 3423 (Wat Sahakon - Phanthai Norasing Shrine) for 15 kilometres. This shrine was constructed in Memory of Phanthai Norasing, when he was a steersman of the Ekkachai royal barge and the prow of the barge hit a big branch of a tree by Khlong Khok Kham, breaking the figurehead of the barge. Phanthai Norasing asked the King Phrachao Suea to execute him in accordance with the royal family law. Phrachao Suea had Phanthai Norasing executed against the

former's own consent, ordered the construction of a temporary shrine and put Phanthai Norasing's head, as well as, the broken figure-head of the Ekkachai royal barge in the shrine to be a symbol of his honesty and loyalty. Then, the Fine Arts Department constructed a new shrine as the original one had fallen down. Inside, there is a life-size statue of Phanthai Norasing in the position of steering at the stern of the barge, respected among the locals.

Mahachai Market

Mahachai Market is one of the country's largest fresh seafood markets, but if you're looking for collectables, there are also ceramics, sarongs and wicker furniture on sale here. A ferry across the river from the market leads to Tha Chalom, a large fishing village.

Wichian Chodok Fort

Built in 1827 to protect the mouth of the Chao Phraya River from foreign invaders, this fort is a crumbling ruin that brings to mind a bygone era. Cannon from the fort can be seen at the nearby city shrine and city hall.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Sila Suwan House

Situated at No. 678 on Chalong Road, the two-storey house is wholly built of golden teak in a modified Thai style with elaborately carved gable and roof decorations. The house is adapted as a museum with 5 display rooms packed with precious artefacts and antiques. Visitors have to obtain a prior permission from the house owner before visiting.

Salt Farms

Though few visitors make a plan to visit salt farms, they are at the roadside throughout

the province, and create odd reflections of the gleaming pyramids of salt in the water. Such scenes make fascinating backdrops for photos.

SHOPPING

Bencharong Ceramics

The area around Samut Sakhon is famed for its production of Bencharong ceramics, in which an intricate patterned glaze is applied by hand using just five colours-red, black, blue, yellow and green. Traditionally used only by members of the aristocracy, these days Bencharong is popular with everybody, and visitors can buy these delicate ceramics at Don Kai Di Bencharong Village in Amphoe Krathum Baen.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Seafood festival

February/March

It takes place during February of March every year at the embarkment in front of the City Pillar Shrine to promote the reputation of seafood products of the province, as well as, the agricultural produce of the Ban Phaeo People such as fruits, Flowers, including the processed food industry. Also, there is a fair offering seafood and handicraft products.

Honey offering Festival

September / October

This festival takes place in Wat Khong Khru, Amphoe Mueang, Samut Sakhon, on the full moon of the 10th luner month to pass on the traditional culture and festival of the Thai Mon people in paying respect to the monk. The monk will preserve the honey and use it as medicine in the necessary time. the Thai Mon people believe that those who offer honey to

the monk will obtain good luck back and will be prosperous in money and honour both in this and in the next life.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Follow Highway 35 southwest of Bangkok, via Thon Buri-Pak Tho Road, visitors will arrive at Samut Sakhon.



By Bus

Several buses leave for Samut Sakhon daily from the Southern Bus Terminal on Boromratchachonnani Road. Contact Tel. +66 2894 6122, 1490 or visit www.transport.co.th for more information.

By Van

Several vans leave to Samut Sakhon from

the Victory Monument and the van terminal opposite to the Mo Chit Bus Terminal.

By Rail

Several trains travel between Wongwian Yai Station in Bangkok and Mahachai Station in Samut Sakhon daily. Tel. +66 2465 2017, +66 3441 1003 Hotline 1690, www.railway.co.th.





Tha Kha Floating Market

SAMUT SONGKHRAM



Don Hoi Lot

Some 40 kms. west along the Gulf coast from Samut Sakhon and 72 kms. from Bangkok, this is Thailand's smallest province at 416 square kilometres, and is famous for its fruit, vegetables and seafood. There are some old and interesting temples in town, and nearby is the well-kept Rama II Memorial Park.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Wat Ban Laem

The original settlers of Samut Songkhram were fleeing an attack by the Burmese on nearby Phetchaburi, and finding it safe here; they set about renovating a ruined temple called Wat Si Champa, and gave it a new name - Wat Ban Laem. Fishing is what the locals here do for living, and a standing Buddha image in the temple, called Luangpho Ban Laem, was the result of a miraculous catch in a fisherman's net. When brought to the surface, the alms bowl had become detached, but now a new one has been put in its place. The Buddha is thought to bring good luck, and this temple is now the most revered temple in the province.



Salt Farms

There is a small museum in the compound displaying amulets, Buddha images, antiques and a pulpit from the Ayutthaya period.

Wat Sattha Tham

Built in 1982, the ordination hall of this temple was made of golden teak, and the inside walls are thick with mother-of-pearl inlay, creating scenes from the life of the Lord Buddha and the Ramakian epic.

Don Hoi Lot

The region's biggest attraction for visitors are these banks of fossilised shells which make fascinating patterns at the water's edge, and are best seen in April/May when water levels are at their lowest. A string of seafood restaurants has sprung up to cater for curious sightseers.

Salt Farms

Along the roadside throughout the province is numerous salt farms at which the visitors will see the pyramids of salt created by local villagers.



King Rama II Memorial Park

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Wat Khao Yi San

It is located in Ban Khao Yi San, Tambon Khao Yi San. Presumably, this ancient temple was built in the late Ayutthaya period. The renovated Ubosot possesses the art of stucco by craftsmen from Mueang Phet or Phetchaburi. Inside, there are original paintings, and figures from the Chinese chronicles seen on the window panels. The Phra Non Cave has a reclining Buddha image with nine toes. A fair to pay homage to the revered image is held in the first lunar month of every year.

Ban Khao Yi San Museum

It is situated on the temple grounds, using Sala Kan Parian (preaching hall) as its building. It was established in 1996 with full cooperation from the villagers of the Yi San Community who have been aware of their local history.

Yi San is an ancient community of the same age as the Ayutthaya Kingdom, with people living in it continuously. The museum presents the stories of the community which are important and worth a study. On the ground floor, there are displays of folk wisdom, life and culture, tools for making herbal medicine, and household utensils. Other local tools and utensils are exhibited on the upper floor. The museum is open only on Saturday and Sunday from 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m., except for Buddhist holy days during Buddhist Lent. Contact should be made at least one week in advance for admission on Monday to Friday. For the reservation of a whole day visit, lunch will be provided. Admission fee is 30 Baht. For a group visit of not more than 20 persons, the admission is 200 Baht with a guide provided. For more information, contact Khun Siri-a-pha Ratchatahiran at Tel. +66 2433 1547, +66 8 1859 3195; the Khao Yi San Sub-district

Administration Organization Tel. +66 3476 3108 Fax: +66 3476 3109.

To get there Take Rama II Road. At Km. 72, see the PTT petrol station on the left. Turn left to follow the direction sign to Wat Khao Yi San for around 7 km.

Sufficiency Community of Ban Bang Phlap

Awarded the Outstanding Tourism-based community in the Thailand Tourism Award 2010, this community with simple lifestyle welcomes tourists to its beautiful Thai way of life with the homestay service. Here the guests get to live and learn various aspects of Thai life; such as, morning offering of traditional snack – khanomkhrok – to monks on alms-round. Situated in the river basin, nurtured by waterways, residents earn their living from the fruit orchards that yield high quality products. They also experiment with organic fruit and vegetable planting. The unique OTOP goods is called “Reincarnated Fruits” with the processing of unlikely fruits and vegetables, such as *Tinosporacrispa* vine, balsam apple, raw papaya, lime and Bilimbi, and turning them into delectable snacks.

Wat Amphawan Chetiyaram

is next to the King Rama II Memorial Park. It is a temple associated with the royal lineage of Bang Chang. Presumably, it was built during the reign of King Rama I. Wat Amphawan Chetiyaram was renovated several times by Kings Rama III, IV, and V. At present, it is a royal temple of the second class. The Ubosot (ordination hall) and permanent structures within the temple are mostly formed in the early Rattanakosin style of art and architecture. The ordination hall is a beautiful building. Furthermore, there is a Monument of King Rama II.

King Rama II Memorial Park

King Rama II was born in Amphoe Amphawa, just north of Samut Songkhram, and this museum and memorial park are dedicated to his memory as his birthplace. A local abbot donated over four acres of ground which now has several traditional Thai houses that display items from the early 19th century, including some dolls that depict King Rama II's theatrical works. Behind the house is a botanic garden and a dramatic arts training hall. The park is open daily from 9.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m., while the museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Amphawa Evening Floating Market

The Amphawa evening market is a canal-side market set up near Wat Amphawan Chetiyaram. The canal is plied with merchants on boats peddling food and drink, while on both banks, there are food trolleys as well. The groovy atmosphere by the waterway attracts a drove of visitors each afternoon. The Amphawa Canal Community was in 2007 cited with Honourable Mention by UNESCO Asia- Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation, as a pilot initiative to restore the houses with local community input as well as to revive the traditional water- based way of life. The market is open on Friday – Sunday from 2.00 p.m. – 8.00 pm., and the parking can be done within the area of Wat Amphawan Chetiyaram.

Thai Dessert Museum

It is located downstairs of the multi-purpose building of Tambon Amphawa Municipality Office, displaying replicas of Thai desserts and how to make them. Administration is free. Open during 1.00 – 7.00 p.m. on Friday and 10.00 a.m.-7.00 p.m. on weekends.



Bang Noi Floating Market

Tha Kha Floating Market

Open from 6.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. on Friday to Sunday, Tha Kha Floating Market is located in Amphoe Amphawa, not far from Amphawa Floating Market. Noted for several delicious breakfast, visitors to this market get to enjoy the buying various fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as, local delicacies, all from the rowing boats. a dramatic arts training hall. The park is open daily from 9.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m., while the

museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Bang Noi Floating Market

Located at the mouth of the Bang Noi canal, around 5 kms. from King Rama II Memorial Park, Bang Noi Floating Market is a small river-based community that provides a yesteryear ambiance to visitors. Apart from tasting the delicious food and refresh a drinks, and buying souvenirs; such as, postcards and t-shirts, visit Tang Siam Ha Museum which exhibits a collection of over 3,000 antique eathen post and jars discovered at the bottom of the Mae Klong River. The market is open from 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. on the weekends.

Church of the virgin Mary of Atsana Wihan Maephra Bangkoet

Church of the virgin Mary of Atsana Wihan Maephra Bangkoet is situated at Mu 7, Tambon Bang Nok Khwaek. This is a sacred place of worship of the Christians living in the area. It was built in 1890 by Father Paolo Salmone, a French missionary with supporting funds from his relatives in France, the overseas mission of Paris and Rome, and philanthropists in Bangkok. It took up to six years to complete the construction. The official opening ceremony was held on 11 February, 1896 . It is a building of the Frence Gothic architectural style and coated with pounded lime. The interior is decorate with coloured stained glass. There are statues, a pulpit, a holy water basin, various kinds of candelabra, and carvings depocting historical stories in the Bible. The church is not far from the river bank. Advance contact should be made to the priest in charge for a guided tour at Tel. +66 3476 1347.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Homestay

The abundance of fruits orchards within the area makes agriculture to be the main source of income for the residents of Samut Songkhram. Tourists can enjoy learning this agricultural way of life through the homestay service. Ban Rim Khlong Community Enterprise, awarded outstanding Tourism-based community by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, as well as other community groups; such as, the coconut sugar conservation group, the boat paddling conservation group, and the Thai music conservation group.

SPECIAL EVENTS

King Rama II Memorial Festival

Early February

The memorial park springs to life for this annual fair which is held in February. Masked dancers, handicraft stalls and demonstrations of Thai-dessert making attract crowds of onlookers.

Khanom Khrok - Sugar Alms-giving Ceremony

October

It is organised annually on the 8th day of the waxing moon of the 10th lunar month at Wat Kaen Chan Charoen, Amphoe Bang Khonthi.

Mae Klong Banana-leaf Sheat Floating Festival

November

It takes place during the Loi Krathong Festival at the King Rama II Memorial Park and Wat Phummarin Kudi Thong, Amphoe Amphawa.

Mackerel Eating and Mae Klong Famous Products Festival

December

To be held in front of City Hall. It is plenty of food products made of Mackerel.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Follow Highway 35 through Thon Buri and Samut Sakhon to Samut Songkhram.

By Bus

Buses for Samut Songkhram leave the Southern Bus Terminal on Boromratchachonnani Road regularly. Contact Tel. +66 2894 6122, 1490 or visit www.transport.co.th for more information.

By Van

Several vans leave to Samut Songkhram from the Victory Monument and the van terminal opposite to the Mo Chit Bus Terminal.

By Rail

Trains to Samut Songkhram leave from Wongwian Yai Station. Contact Tel. +66 2465 2017 or Hotline 1690, www.railway.co.th.



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